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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 6675**  
Shirou SAWA : Attorney Docket No. 2003\_1023  
Serial No. 10/624,674 : Group Art Unit 1624  
Filed July 23, 2003 : Examiner Paul V. Ward  
  
METHOD FOR STABILIZING : **Mail Stop: Amendment**  
ARYLCARBOXYLIC ACID, STABILIZER  
THEREOF AND AQUEOUS SOLUTION  
CONTAINING STABILIZED ARYLCARBOXYLIC  
ACID

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**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFERRED  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

This is responsive to the Official Action dated September 29, 2006.

The Official Action constitutes a requirement for an election of species of claims 1-23.

However, claims 1-23 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 24-27 have been added, based upon the Preliminary Amendment filed on July 23, 2003, a copy of which is enclosed.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirou SAWA

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October 11, 2006



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Shirou SAWA

Serial No. NEW

: Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Filed July 23, 2003

: Attorney Docket No. 2003\_1023

METHOD FOR STABILIZING ARYLCARBOXYLIC  
ACID, STABILIZER THEREOF AND AQUEOUS  
SOLUTION CONTAINING STABILIZED  
ARYLCARBOXYLIC ACID

(Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of Serial No. 09/885,096,  
Filed June 21, 2001)

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**Prior to calculating the filing fee,** please amend the above-identified application as

follows:

**COPY**

**Amendments to the Specification**

**Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:**

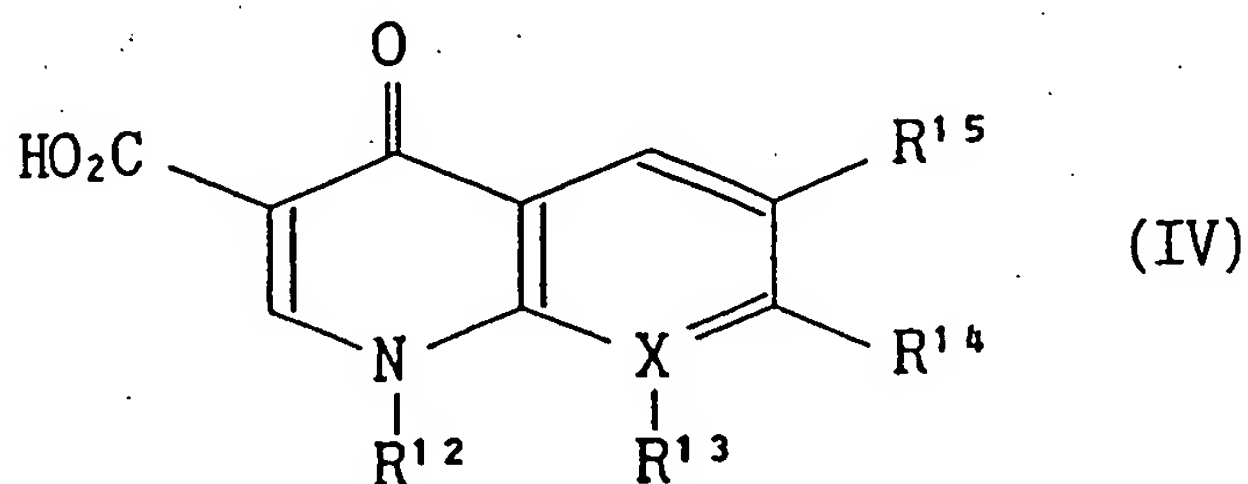
This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/885,096 filed June 21, 2001, which is a divisional of Serial No. 09/017,626 filed February 2, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,274,592.

## Amendments to the Claims

### Claim 1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A method for stabilizing an arylcarboxylic acid or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof in an aqueous solution, which comprises adding a pyridonecarboxylic acid selected from

(a) a pyridonecarboxylic acid of the formula (IV):



wherein

X is a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom; and

R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a halogen, a carboxyl group, an optionally substituted lower alkyl group, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group, an optionally substituted acyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> optionally form a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic group with the adjacent nitrogen atom and X, and R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> optionally form a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic group with the adjacent carbon atom, provided that when X is a nitrogen atom, R<sup>13</sup> is void,

(b) cinoxacin or

(c) sparfloxacin,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

to an arylcarboxylic acid of the formula (I):



wherein

$\text{L}^1$  is an optionally substituted aryl group having not more than 14 carbon atoms; and

$\text{R}^1$  is an optionally substituted alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms or a single bond,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

**25. (New)** The method of claim 24, wherein the pyridonecarboxylic acid is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of lomefloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, enoxacin, ciprofloxacin, tosufloxacin, fleroxacin and levofloxacin.

**26. (New)** The method of claim 24, wherein the arylcarboxylic acid is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ibuprofen, diclofenac, 2-naphthoic acid, 2-naphthylacetic acid, bromfenac, salicylic acid, aspirin, flufenisal, ibufenac, alclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen and mefenamic acid.

**27. (New)** The method of claim 24, wherein the pyridonecarboxylic acid is added in a proportion of 0.001-5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the arylcarboxylic acid.

**REMARKS**

The present application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/885,096, which is abandoned without prejudice without payment of the issue fee or publication fee.


In the present application claims 1-23 are cancelled without prejudice and new claims 24-27 have been added corresponding to the allowed claims of the parent application.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirou SAWA

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July 23, 2003